

# DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LEGISLATURE WATSON SUMNER MARTIN G. SHEPHERD

## To the Democratic Electors of St. Joseph County:

Fellow Citizens:—This is the time for united and vigorous action. The principles that we have long been endeavoring to establish and maintain are in danger. The Federalists and Whigs who after repeatedly repeated defeats have for a long time remained inactive have now as if from the lethargy of sleep, and have taken the field against us. Like the last struggle of a dying man, their effort is the effort of desperation, knowing full well if they fail now they fall for ever.

It is the effort of the Whigs to obtain ascendancy and power fair and honorable—if they had asked support for their cause for its own intrinsic merits—it they had openly come forward and solicited the suffrages of the people to aid in the establishment of wise principles, we should have had no just cause of complaint. But fellow citizens, this is not their course. Will knowing the just approbation and detestation entertained by the people towards the system of intolerance and aristocratic government they wish to establish, they have crept into our ranks by insidious approaches and by deceitful pretences. They have even succeeded in this reprehensible manner, to procure the nomination of a notorious and most unscrupulous Federalist Whig to the house of representatives of this State. A convention called by democrats to put in nomination democratic representatives, friendly to the support of Martin Van Buren and Richard M. Johnson, has been deceived—the object intended has been frustrated—the intentions and hopes of democrats have been disappointed. The secret machinations of Whigs who deceived some of the people, have, in this convention, by means and measures unknown and unthought of by the democracy of the county, effected the nomination of a Federalist and Whig!—O, tell it not in Gath. Can democrats support whigs? Never. An attempt was even made by the same whigs, who were elected by temporary means, to arrest, yet democrats, that was their term, to AFRU, the proceedings of the democratic convention, lately held at Schoolcraft, for the nomination of Senators. How fellow citizens, was the object not fully shown—here was the true character of whigs fully developed—developed too in a convention called by democrats.

With the nomination of Martin G. Shepherd the democrats are fully established—indeed he was the man of their choice. And the whigs when they found they could not effect the nomination of two of their own number, reluctantly consented to take up a man whom, to the hour they have opposed and denounced. The true friends of Mr. Shepherd will bear this in mind at the approaching contest. The pretended supporters give to him by the whigs, is not from love to him, but with the hope thereby of maintaining themselves—to make him the tool of the slandering stones from which they may leap into power. Did not this same Neal McCallister and his fellow whigs move Heaven and earth, and the waters under the earth, to prevent the election of Mr. Shepherd to the convention that formed the Constitution? Let them deny it if they dare. Every citizen of the county knows the fact.

Of the political character of Neal McCallister we have little to say, and in that little all will be said which the respectability of the county is and is not. There has been a Federalist and a Whig; and by consequence opposed to the administration of Gen. Jackson, and opposed to the election of Martin Van Buren. Can democrats who have struggled in support of the administration of Gen. Jackson and who desire the election of Martin Van Buren, vote for a man opposed to both? Never; the idea is preposterous—the opposition is absurd. Our party can only vote for those who coincide with them in principles of government.

Democrats to the rally. The principles of our party are attacked. Unity and concert are required to ward off the danger. All other considerations but the maintenance of our republican institutions in their purity, should be laid aside—should be sacrificed upon the altar of public good.

Fellow citizens, whose lot and fortunes were cast among us at the adoption of our constitution and present state government, come forth in your might. The democratic party looked upon you as brethren—they gave you the privilege of citizenship—the privilege of voting at all elections for our rulers. The whigs opposed this—they even denounced us for giving you this privilege. Will you now desert in time of need those who have been your best friends? Will you vote for those who will take away all your privileges of citizenship if they can get into power? Will you vote for a party who denounce you as heathen, and who affirm you are unworthy to be their equals? Come forth then on Monday and Tuesday next, and by casting your votes for Watson Sumner and Martin G. Shepherd, support men who will support your privileges of which the whigs are striving to divest you.

Democrats to the polls! Let us unitedly maintain the principles of government established by Jefferson and Madison. Let us not permit our opponents by artifice and fraud, to supplant us. Let us not permit them to entice us into a system of aristocratic government upon us. Above all let us not be made instruments in their hands of riveting chains upon ourselves. Our watchword is liberty and equality—freedom in religion, without any one possessing the right to ask the rest and wherever, concerning our interests—that no man should be distinguished for his belief. We go for equality of laws, operating alike upon the rich and the poor. Democrats will you vote for a man belonging to a party whose views of government on these points are diametrically opposed to ours? We do not hesitate to answer for you never. To the polls then, and give your votes for Watson Sumner and Martin G. Shepherd, support men who will support the principles we have long and ardently maintained, and upon which the good and the righteous depend.

Democrats of St. Joseph, one word upon the nomination of Centerville and we are done. Watson Sumner and Martin G. Shepherd are in point of fact the choice of that convention—they are in good faith the real nominees. On the first ballot, before intrigue was made to bear before decision was reached, when each member expressed his own mind, these gentlemen received a majority of all the votes. This fully and conclusively shows that they are the choice of the democracy of the county. Let every true democrat stand the polls and give them their united support. Let whigs look to whigs for support of their candidates. Democrats can only vote for democrats. Let no difference of minor importance divide us, and victory is certainly ours.